

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY HONORS NATIONAL GUARD ON ITS 370th BIRTHDAY
Encourages Citizens to Honor Guard Members

RALEIGH – Governor Mike Easley is encouraging all North Carolinians throughout the state to honor members of the National Guard as today, Dec. 13th marks the organization's 370th birthday. Easley also declared Dec. 10-16 as "National Guard Week" to show appreciation and thanks to the members of the oldest arm of the nation's military services.

"These men and women stand ready to leave their homes, jobs, and families in response to calls for help in times of natural disaster or national emergency," Easley said. "This week and throughout the year, I encourage all North Carolinians to express their gratitude to these volunteer citizen soldiers and airmen and their families for exceptional devotion to their communities, state and nation."

Easley is the lead for the National Governors Association on National Guard issues. Yesterday he announced a new website, www.ncpublicschools.org/militarysupport, and a series of training institutes to help teachers and school counselors understand and address the challenges faced by children with deployed family members.

North Carolina is one of the top three states with the highest percentage of soldiers and airmen who have answered the call to federal active duty since the 2001 terrorist attacks. More than 11,000 North Carolina National Guard members have been deployed on federal active duty at home and around the world, and some have been called to duty more than once.

Easley encouraged citizens of North Carolina to remember the thousands of military families who live in the state who may have a spouse or parent deployed overseas this Christmas. With more than 123,000 people in the Armed Forces, either active duty, National Guard or Reserves, there are potentially thousands of families who will not be together over the holidays.

"We cannot forget the contributions made by members of our military to protect our country, but their families also make sacrifices," Easley said. "Especially at this time of year, we should do all we can to let them know how grateful we are for their service."

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